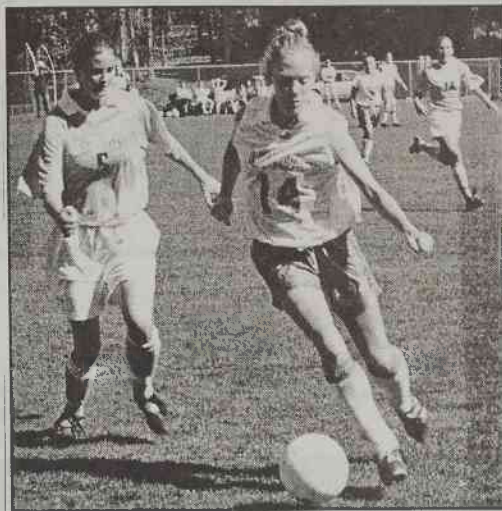


# THE BLUE BANNER



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## UNCA public safety investigates thefts

Lori Brenner  
Staff Reporter

Drea Jackson  
Contributing Reporter

UNCA's public safety department has issued two arrest warrants after two recent series of thefts on campus.

One student and four others are being investigated in connection with seven vehicle break-ins that occurred on campus from Oct. 7-21.

Approximately \$3000 worth of items were taken from seven vehicles in different areas on campus.

"I will definitely make sure my car is locked before I go to class," said Laura Robinson, a sophomore history major.

Three of the seven cars were convertibles. The soft-top had been cut through to gain access to the vehicles.

Campus officials believe the perpetrators used a device similar to a coat hanger to gain access to three of the other vehicles, and one of the vehicles was unlocked.

Four of the break-ins occurred in the Founder's Hall parking lot underneath the cafeteria; one was in the Zageir Hall parking lot; two occurred in the parking lot below South Ridge Residence Hall; and one was in the West Ridge Residence Hall parking deck.

"Walking around campus, I feel safe. I feel that this campus is one of the safer ones in the system," said Robinson.

Radios, stereos, speakers, and cell phones were just some of the items taken from the vehicles.

A few of the stolen items have been recovered and are being held as evidence before they are returned to their owners.

To avoid becoming a victim, all expensive items in students' vehicles should be hidden, and stu-



DREA JACKSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sergeant Jerry Adams displays the stolen items recovered by UNCA public safety after the recent thefts which have occurred on campus.

dents should lock their car doors and keep the windows rolled up, according to Sergeant Jerry Adams.

Undeclared freshman John Jacobs, undeclared junior Shawn Westin and undeclared freshman Nathaniel Capps reported items stolen from their vehicles, according to public safety incident reports.

Public safety officers managed to trace some of the stolen items to

local pawn shops, and those items will be returned to their original owners, according to Adams.

For the Oct. 17 break-ins, warrants were issued for the arrests of Jonathan Marbois-Segall, a freshman at UNCA, and Michael Jonathan Sharp, who gave a 540 Old Marshall Highway address.

A UNCA public safety officer stopped a suspicious-looking car in the Founder's Hall parking lot under

the cafeteria on the evening of Oct. 21. The officer found three men that were not students and several of the stolen items in the vehicle. Charges are being filed against those

three men, according to Adams. More warrants are expected to be issued in the next week, pending an ongoing investigation, according to Adams.

**"I will definitely make sure my car is locked before I go to class."**

-Laura Robinson,  
sophomore history major

## Air pollution gets worse

Lana Coffey  
Staff Reporter

Pollution in Buncombe County is not only causing visibility problems but health problems as well, according to Richard Maas, chairman of the environmental studies department.

"The biggest pollutant that we have in terms of its health affect is ozone," said Maas. "When you breath it, it burns your lungs and kills lung tissue. It weakens your lungs and that makes you susceptible to lots of other respiratory diseases, whether it be a cold or bronchitis or emphysema."

There are some serious air pollution problems in Buncombe County, according to Maas.

The first problem is visibility, according to Maas. This problem is caused almost entirely by sulfates.

The majority of the sulfates causing the problem come from coal burning power plants, according to Maas.

Most of the power plants that contribute to the problem come from outside of Buncombe County.

"The majority of it is coming from old TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) plants to the west of here that have not put on good pollution controls," Maas said.

The visibility problems have gotten worse in Asheville, according to Maas.

"The natural background visibility before we started burning a lot of coal was probably on the order of 90 to 100 miles and now our average visibility is more like 20 miles."

Not only are sulfates harmful to visibility, but they also have some health effects, according to Maas.

"The biggest pollutant that we have in terms of its health effect is ozone," said Maas.

Ozone is formed by three things: Nitrogen Oxide, also known as NOX, hydro-carbons and intense sunlight.

More than 80 percent of all NOX in Buncombe County originated from outside the county, according to Maas.

Intense sunlight causes NOX and hydro-carbons to react together to form ozone, according to Maas.

"The hotter you burn something, the more efficient it turns out to be, like a motor or engine. When we wanted to make our cars more energy efficient, we gave them smaller engines and had the engines burn really hot," said Maas.

The same idea applies to the power plants. The hotter the boiler runs, the hotter the steam is made, and the more electricity can be produced, according to Maas. This causes harmful NOX emissions.

State-wide about half of NOX is produced by power plants and half is caused by automobiles, according to Maas.

"We are seeing real health effects in Western North Carolina because of ozone," said Maas. "We can see that here in Western North Carolina, we have a higher rate of respiratory problems than almost any place in the country. Air quality is very bad here."

According to Maas, approximately 25 percent of children in Buncombe

## Employees help charitable organizations in wake of attacks

Rae Stephens  
Staff Reporter

of the UNCA employees had donated.

The school employees have raised \$23,566 since the beginning of this campaign on Sept. 25.

"We won't hit 30 [percent] this year, not unless something really turns around," said Marsh. "That's a disappointment, but that is just the way it is. I am hoping people just haven't turned in their pledges yet."

Nonprofit organizations have been suffering due to a severe decrease in donations since the disaster of Sept. 11, according to an Oct. 8 *Washington Post* article by Jacqueline L. Salmon.

Fewer people have been attending fundraising events, and groups have asked donors to expedite checks so their employees can be paid.

Various organizations had to slash budgets and cut staff.

"Many groups either decided to cancel or delay their fundraising or have retooled their messages along

### UNCA donation history during the past three years:

1998 (42.96% employee participation)	1999 (37.71% employee participation)	2000 (22.92% employee participation)
\$30,742	\$37,191	\$28,785

UNCA employees, as part of the State Employee Combined Campaign, raised money for over 1,000 humanitarian organizations that have decreased in funds since the Sept. 11 disaster.

Last year, 40,010 state employees donated over \$4.5 million. A total of 6,203 employees donated between \$120 to \$149 in 2000.

"Our goal is [to raise] \$36,000... and [have] 100 percent participation [from UNCA employees]," said Ellie Marsh SECC Co-chair at UNCA. "You never know if you are going to reach a goal or you're going to pass it, but why not aim high. My grandmother used to say, 'Aim high. You might only land on a tater hill, but at least you aimed high?' I think that is true."

As of Oct. 22, only 22.8 percent

of the lines of, "Yes, give to the Sept. 11 disaster funds, but please don't take it out of what you would ordinarily give us," said Salmon.

Organizations like the Brady Campaign, a gun violence prevention organization, have suffered badly.

"The Brady Campaign... reduced its workforce 20 percent by laying off 14 people, the first layoffs in its 27-year history," said Brendan Daly,

spokesman for the Brady Campaign.

Financial donations to Habitat for Humanity have also dropped significantly due to the postponement of its September mail appeal.

"Direct mail accounts for one-fourth of the group's \$250 million yearly revenue. Habitat was forced to lay off 35 people last week, and ask major donors to accelerate con-

tributions," said Daly.

High participation percentages is the goal for UNCA this year to help suffering organizations.

The campaign, from Sept. 25 to Oct. 26, includes flat donations in cash or check, or a five-dollar minimum payroll deduction for

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